

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would respectfully remind Members not to traffic the well while another is under recognition.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, the 2002 budget the President submitted this week is more of the same, the same fiscal irresponsibility and misplaced priorities that we have come to expect from this administration's budgets over the past 6 years. This budget fails to put our fiscal house in order and instead adds \$3 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

And while the President claims his budget achieves balance, he simply leaves out significant long-term costs. Well, American families can't leave out simple bills within their household budgets, and neither should the President be able to do so within his budget.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats will move us towards a balanced budget through fiscal responsibility and accountability, not accounting gimmicks.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the crime of the week this week was not committed by some menacing outlaw, but it was committed by a repeat offender, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

The Texas parole board has been releasing violent offenders years before they are finished serving out their sentences, and then these violent criminals continue their lawless ways.

Keith Hines was supposed to be in the jailhouse for 30 more years for violent crimes against the citizens of the State, but the good old parole board gave him a get-out-of-jail-free card, and this was a fatal error.

On December 5, Hines robbed a gas station at gunpoint in Humble, Texas. The robber then ran to his vehicle to make his getaway. Witness, volunteer firefighter and good Samaritan, Steve Jackson, jumped into his car and followed Hines while relaying to 911 the locations of the hijacker.

Down the road, with Jackson in pursuit, Hines jumped out of his getaway car, ran up to Jackson's vehicle, shot Jackson twice and murdered him on the side of the road.

Hines is now charged with capital murder. All this because the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles let this habitual offender go every which way, including loose.

And that's just the way it is.

KUCINICH'S 12-POINT PLAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The House will soon entertain a resolution relating to the surge. It is a nonbinding resolution. The war, however, is binding.

The supplemental resolution relating to funding will give Congress an opportunity to take some binding action related to the war. Congress' real power is to cut off funds.

Money is there right now to bring the troops home, and money to bring the troops home is part of a plan that involves bringing in international peacekeepers while our troops leave.

I have a 12-point plan which I have circulated among Members of Congress as to how we can get out of Iraq. The American people will not tolerate non-binding resolutions as being an excuse for strong and substantive action to end the war as quickly as possible.

CIANA VS. COCKFIGHTING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Judiciary Committee considered a bill to protect chickens, roosters, from being carried across State lines for use in illegal cockfighting. An amendment was offered on a similar "cross State line" issue, protecting minor girls from being carried across State lines for the purpose of having an abortion without their parents' knowledge or consent.

While the committee ultimately passed the animal protections, they wouldn't even allow a vote on protecting young girls. Even more outrageous, the substance of the rejected amendment has passed twice in the House last year, with large bipartisan majorities.

Mr. Speaker, in case anyone is having trouble following this, let's summarize: by rejecting this amendment, Democrats saw fit to provide greater protections to birds than to minor girls and their parents and unborn children. It is as simple as that. This is supposed to be the year of the children? Not all of the children.

Welcome to the Pelosi Congress.

BUSH TROOP ESCALATION BE- COMES A WORSE IDEA BY THE DAY—CONGRESS MUST SPEAK ITS VOICE

(Mr. TOWNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming clear day by day that the President's troop escalation plan is not in the best interest of this Nation.

First, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the President's troop escalation plan would take substantially more troops and more money than the President has suggested.

The President says 21,500 troops are needed; the CBO says 48,000 troops are necessary to conduct the mission. The President says it will cost about \$5.6 billion, but CBO says that the number could be four times higher than that.

Second, the administration's intelligence agencies concluded last week that violence would continue in Iraq for at least another 18 months, but the President says his plan will calm the violence in 6 months.

And, third, Pentagon officials admitted last week that they do not have enough armored vehicles, armored kits and other equipment needed to protect these additional troops.

Mr. Speaker, after hearing these three different facts, how can anyone believe the President's troop escalation plan is in the best interests of this country?

On that note, I yield back.

TED FELDER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last month the low country director of the office of South Carolina's Second Congressional District departed. Ted Felder, who has served the Second District since my election in 2001, has been named Economic Development Director for the City of Hardeeville, which will be one of the fastest growing cities in America in the next decade.

As a native of St. Matthews, Ted graduated from the University of South Carolina. He and his wife, Beth, have a 9-month-old son, John Goodwin. As a longtime friend of Ted's parents, John and Jane Felder, I have known Ted since he was a small child. I have also had the honor of serving with John in the general assembly.

I appreciate Ted's dedication to the low country and the needs of its constituents. I know he will bring the same commitment to the residents of Hardeeville. He has trained his successor, Allen Aimar, to be accessible and accountable, with office manager Deanna Connors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11. Our prayers are with Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD, his wife, Gloria, and his family.

DUBUQUE, IOWA

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Dubuque, Iowa, the oldest city in Iowa, located among the bluffs of the Upper Mississippi River for being named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise.

I would also like to recognize the 11 residents of the City of Dubuque sitting in the gallery above who made the